



Department of Justice

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FORMER BUS DRIVER SENTENCED TO 3 ½ YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR STEALING IDENTITIES OF DISABLED BUS PATRONS

Orlando, Florida - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge G. Kendall Sharp today sentenced Watreka Ligon (age 31, of Orlando) to 3 ½ years in federal prison for wire fraud, aggravated identity theft, and credit card fraud. As part of sentence, the Court also ordered Ligon to serve three years on federal supervised release and to pay restitution in the amount of \$3,667. Ligon pled guilty on September 27, 2010.

According to the facts adopted by the Court at sentencing, Ligon was a student at Everest University, majoring in Criminal Justice. She worked as a driver for MV Transport, a contract subsidiary of Central Florida Regional Transportation, also known as LYNX bus transport. This company transports Central Florida residents with special needs. Between October 19, 2009 and November 8, 2009, Ligon stole the identities of disabled patrons who rode in her van and used their identities to open numerous credit accounts. As part of her scheme to defraud the merchants when opening the fraudulent credit accounts, Ligon opened a post office box with the United States Postal Service, so that the mail relating to those fraudulent credit accounts would be sent directly to her instead of the primary address of the disabled victims.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service and the United States Postal Inspection Service, Office of Inspector General. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney LaKesia R. Mosley.